AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS[1]

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing messages, comprising:

receiving an electronic mail message by a computer;

determining whether a content of the received message ~~includes instructions~~ is for a user of the computer or for an attached ~~operating a~~ device associated with the computer by detecting a characteristic of the message, the attached device being a business office device including a processor;

transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached device, if the determining step determines that the received message ~~includes instructions~~ is for ~~operating~~ the attached device; and

operating the processor of the attached device in response to the communication.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining whether the received message ~~which has been received~~ includes instructions for operating the device or whether the received message ~~which has been received has been received~~ has a the user of the computer as an end recipient.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising ~~the step of~~:

displaying, after the receiving step, a message to the user indicating the electronic mail message contains information to be forwarded to the device,

wherein the determining step comprises:

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[1] This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

determining, by a user reading the <u>displayed</u> message ~~which has been displayed~~,

whether the <u>received</u> message ~~which has been received~~ includes instructions for operating the

device.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:

executing a command which causes the step of transmitting to be performed.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the executing step comprises:

executing program code of a file which is attached to the message by a manual action

by the user.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the executing step comprises:

executing the program code of the file by pointing, using a pointing device and a

graphical user interface, to an object representing the file.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the executing step comprises:

executing the code by pressing a button while pointing to the object representing the

file.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the receiving step comprises:

receiving an Internet electronic mail message.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein:

the step of executing a command comprises transmitting information to a device

driver executing within the computer; and

the step of transmitting is performed using the device driver.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving, by the device, the communication transmitted from the computer; and

transmitting parameters from the device to the computer, in response to the

communication which has been received by the device.

11. (Original) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:

performing a mechanical action by the device, in response to the communication

which has been received by the device.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the determining

step comprises:

determining whether the message ~~includes instructions~~ is for the user or for the

attached ~~operating the~~ device automatically by detecting a characteristic of the email.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 12, wherein the determining

step comprises:

determining that the message ~~includes instructions~~ is for ~~operating~~ the attached device

automatically by detecting a code within the message.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the determining

step comprises:

determining that the message ~~includes instructions~~ is for ~~operating~~ the attached device

automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

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15. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message ~~includes instructions~~ is for ~~operating~~ the attached device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

transmitting information from a device to a computer associated with the device, the device being a business office device including a processor;

processing the information by a device driver within the computer; and

transmitting, by the computer, an electronic mail message corresponding to the information,

wherein the device deriver is configured to control operations of the device.

19. (Original) A method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of:

transmitting the information from the device driver to a messaging application programming interface (MAPI) of the computer; and

processing the information by the MAPI,

wherein the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting

the electronic mail message corresponding to the information which has been processed by

the MAPI.

20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein:

the computer is a message transfer agent,

the step of transmitting information from the device comprises transmitting the

information from the device directly to the computer which is the message transfer agent, and

the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting the

electronic mail message using a TCP connection from the computer which is a message

transfer agent.

21. (Original) A method according to claim 18, wherein the processing step

comprises:

creating a file corresponding to the information; and

writing the file to a mail spool directory of the computer, and

wherein the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting

the electronic mail message corresponding to the information using the file stored in the mail

spool directory.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein:

the step of creating and writing comprises creating a plurality of files and writing the

plurality of files in the mail spool directory; and

the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the electronic mail message using each

of the plurality of files stored in the mail spool directory.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for processing messages, comprising:

means, associated with a computer, for receiving an electronic mail message;

means for determining whether <u>a content of</u> the received message ~~includes instructions~~ <u>is</u> for ~~operating~~ a <u>user of the computer or for an attached</u> device associated with the computer by detecting a characteristic of the message, the <u>attached</u> device being a business office device including a processor;

means for transmitting a communication from the computer to the <u>attached</u> device, if the means for determining determines that the received message <u>is</u> ~~includes instructions~~ for ~~operating~~ the <u>attached</u> device; and

means for operating the processor of the <u>attached</u> device in response to the communication.

24. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining whether the <u>received</u> message ~~which has been received~~ includes instructions for operating the device or whether the <u>received</u> message ~~which has been received has been received~~ has ~~a~~ <u>the</u> user of the computer as an end recipient.

25. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for displaying a message to the user indicating the electronic mail message contains information to be forwarded to the device,

wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining, by a user reading the <u>displayed</u> message ~~which has been displayed~~, whether the <u>received</u> message ~~which has been received~~ includes instructions for operating the device.

26. (Original) A system according to claim 25, further comprising:

means for executing a command which causes the means for transmitting to operate.

27. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein the means for executing comprises:

means for executing program code of a file which is attached to the message by a manual action by the user.

28. (Original) A system according to claim 27, wherein the means for executing comprises:

means for executing the program code of the file by pointing, using a pointing device and a graphical user interface, to an object representing the file.

29. (Original) A system according to claim 28, wherein the means for executing comprises:

means for executing the code by pressing a button while pointing to the object representing the file.

30. (Original) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for receiving comprises:

means for receiving an Internet electronic mail message.

31. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein:

the means for executing a command comprises means for transmitting information to a device driver executing within the computer; and

the means for transmitting operates using the device driver.

32. (Original) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving, by the device, the communication transmitted from the computer; and

means for transmitting parameters from the device to the computer, in response to the communication which has been received by the device.

33. (Original) A system according to claim 32, further comprising:

means for performing a mechanical action by the device, in response to the communication which has been received by the device.

34. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message ~~includes instructions~~ is for ~~operating~~ the user or for the attached device automatically by detecting a characteristic of the email.

35. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 34, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message ~~includes instructions~~ is for ~~operating~~ the attached device automatically by detecting a code within the message.

36. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprising:

means for determining that the message ~~includes instructions~~ is for ~~operating~~ the attached device automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

37. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message ~~includes instructions~~ is for ~~operating~~ the attached device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

38. (Original) A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

39. (Original) A system according to claim 38, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

40. (Currently Amended) A system of transmitting, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

means for transmitting information from a device to a computer associated with the device, the device being a business office device;

means for processing the information by a device driver within the computer; and

means for transmitting, by the computer, an electronic mail message corresponding to the information,

wherein the device driver is configured to control operations of the device.

41. (Original) A system according to claim 40, further comprising:

means for transmitting the information from the device driver to a messaging application programming interface (MAPI) of the computer; and

means for processing the information by the MAPI,

wherein the means for transmitting the electronic mail message comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message corresponding to the information which has been processed by the MAPI.

42. (Original) A system according to claim 40, wherein:

the computer is a message transfer agent,

the means for transmitting information from the device transmits the information from the device directly to the computer which is the message transfer agent, and

the means for transmitting the electronic mail message transmits the electronic mail message using a TCP connection from the computer which is a message transfer agent.

43. (Original) A system according to claim 40, wherein the means for processing comprises:

means for creating a file corresponding to the information; and

means for writing the file to a mail spool directory of the computer, and

wherein the means for transmitting the electronic mail message comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message corresponding to the information using the file stored in the mail spool directory.

44. (Original) A system according to claim 43, wherein:

the means for creating and writing comprises means for creating a plurality of files and writing the plurality of files in the mail spool directory; and

the means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message using each of the plurality of files stored in the mail spool directory.

45. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving data from the device, in response to the step of operating the processor;

creating an electronic mail message by the computer including the data which has been received; and

transmitting over the Internet the electronic mail message generated by the computer.

46. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

executing, by a device driver of the computer, commands for at least one of controlling and monitoring the device.

47. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the business office device at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.

48. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the communication as a command for processing by the processor of the device.

49. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the step of transmitting information from a device comprises:

transmitting the information from a business office device which at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.

50. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving data from the device, in response to an operation of the means for operating the processor;

means for creating an electronic mail message by the computer including the data which has been received; and

means for transmitting over the Internet the electronic mail message generated by the computer.

51. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for executing, by a device driver of the computer, commands for at least one of controlling and monitoring the device.

52. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for transmitting comprises:

means for transmitting the communication as a command for processing by the processor of the device.

53. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 40, wherein the means for transmitting information from a device comprises:

means for transmitting the information from a business office device which at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.